

SCHOOL NEWS

EVENT SCHEDULE

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Hillcat History

Corner! - **By Cyril** -
Grade 7

Battle of Yorktown!



What was Battle of Yorktown?



The battle of Yorktown, September 28th, 1781 to October 19th 1781, the catalyst of what our revolution achieved. We forced those British to surrender with the help of the French of course. But, what actually happened there? Why was Yorktown such a target for the American revolutionaries?

George Washington's army was stationed at Newport, Rhode Island with his French allies under their commander, Rochambeau. Washington knew that New York City was a British stronghold, being captured by the British in 1776 and where British General William Howe was stationed. He had the choice to March on New York but news had arrived that a French fleet led by Admiral de Grasse was entering the Chesapeake Bay from the Caribbean to support the Revolutionary war effort. With this news, he made the choice to march on Yorktown where Lord Cornwallis was stationed. Everything had to be secret, if the British found out and prepared for a siege at Yorktown there would be a greater chance that the siege could fail and the British could continue their stint in the colonies. During his march Washington made sure that his men would not be spotted. By the time the British had noticed his reroute to Yorktown it was too late.

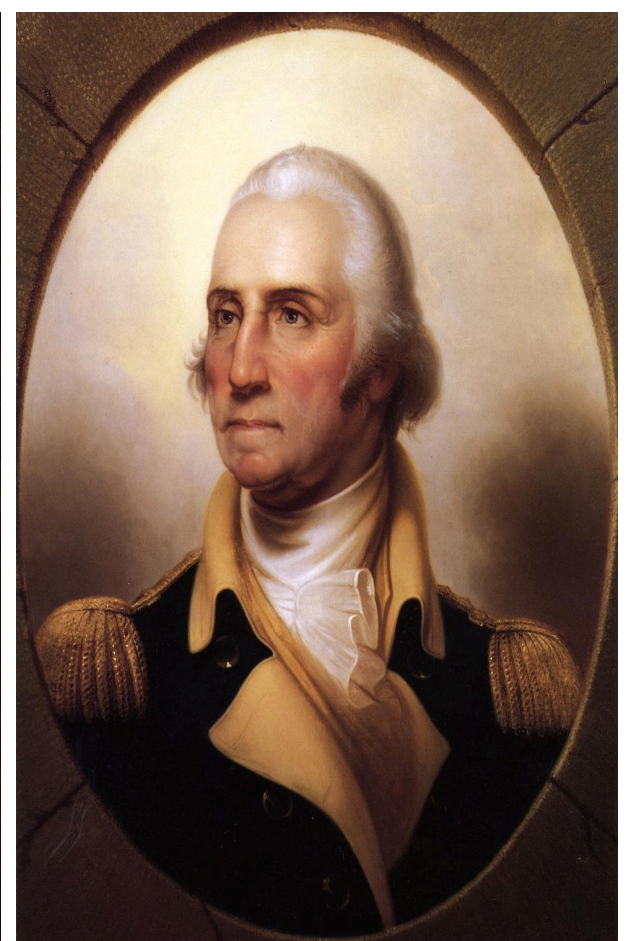


Before the Battle!

On September 1781 the Army had arrived at Yorktown. George Washington would take some time to visit his home at Mount Vernon that he hadn't seen for years before officially starting the siege. When he had arrived back, Yorktown had been surrounded by the combined Franco-American force pushing out of Williamsburg. De Grasse's fleet had arrived in the Chesapeake Bay and was blocking entry to Yorktown denying the besieged supplies. When arriving at Yorktown Washington fired the first cannon shot himself at the fortress. De Grasse's fleet had to leave at the latest by the end of October so the Patriot force had to make due work of Cornwallis.



British General Cornwallis

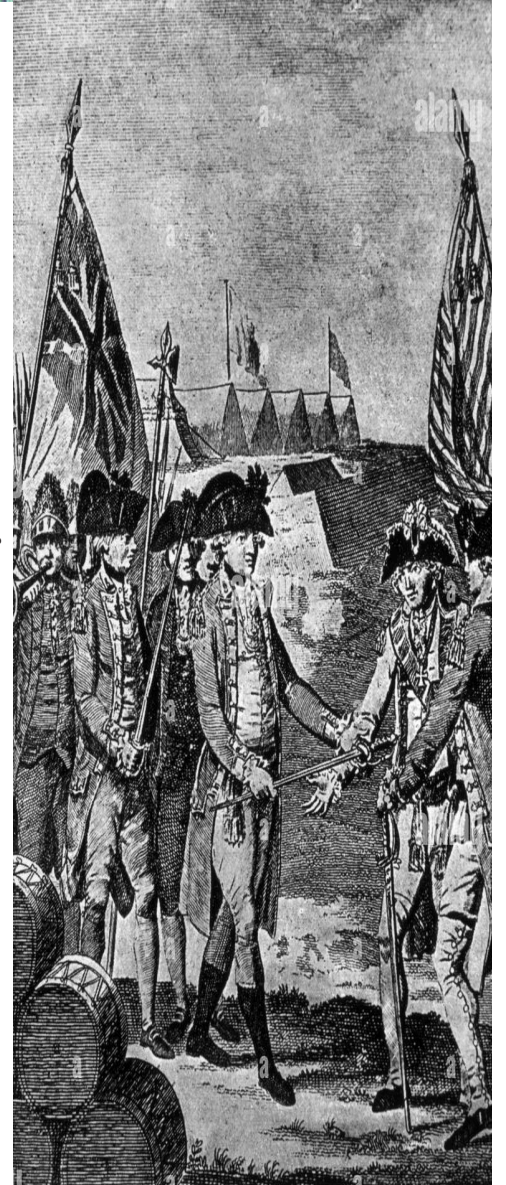


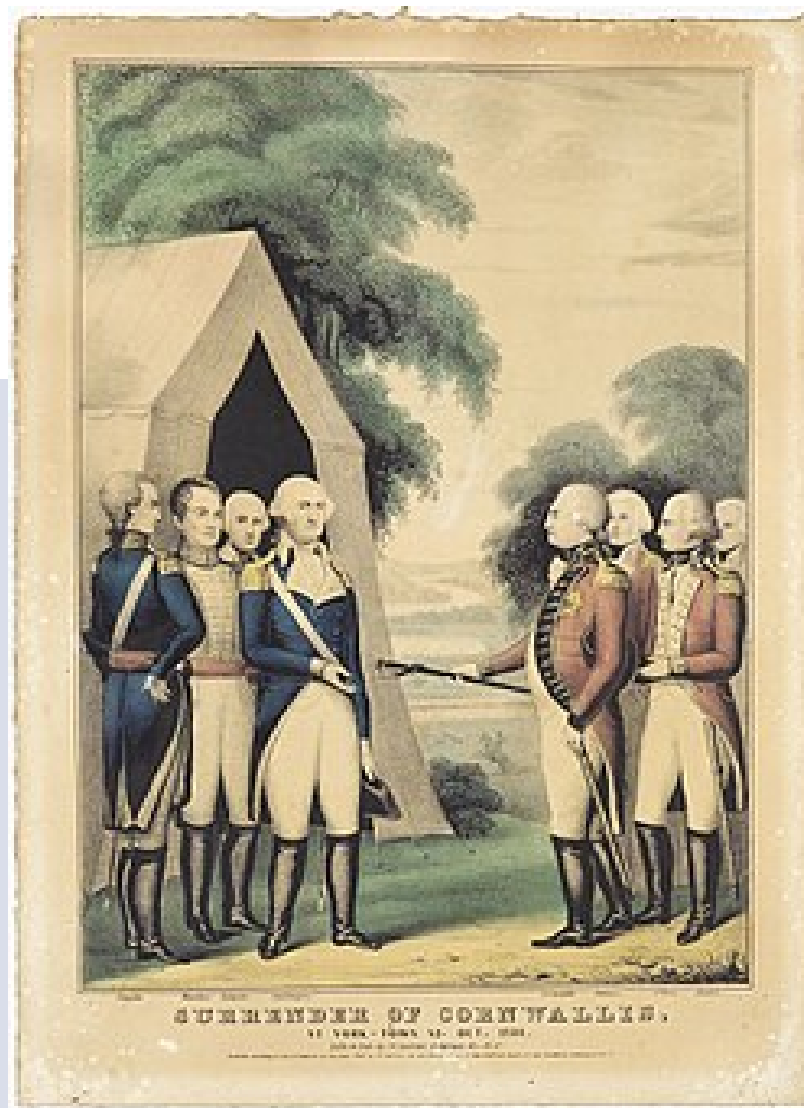
American General Washington



Siege of Yorktown!

The attack commenced upon the fort on September 28th, 1776. The Franco American force used a common European siege strategy that included digging trenches in parallel to provide cover while advancing on the fort, setting up artillery batteries on the way. The British had set up redoubts along the outer line of Yorktown but they had to abandon most of them and instead they sheltered in redoubts 9 and 10. The problem for the Franco-American force was these two redoubts were in the way. They had to storm them. On the 14th of October a French force approached 9 under Vitcomte Deux-Point and an American force led by Alexander Hamilton approached 10. As night approached at 8.P.M fighting ensued at the redoubts as the attack commenced. The French and Americans fought valiantly against the British as the two redoubts fell out of their hands. Now the 2nd Parallel could be finished, which in turn made it so the American Artillery could get close to the walls. Cornwallis, on the 16th, under threat of destruction, ordered the evacuation across the York River to Gloucester Point. His plan was cut short as a storm rolled and scattered his boats. The next day the British requested a ceasefire to discuss terms of surrender and on the 19th it was official.





Results of Yorktown!

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS AT ITS BEST

The Franco-American forces had won the day. Yorktown was the final major battle during the American war of independence. 2 years later the United States of America would be a free state, although in just 3 decades a new war would break out between the two nations that would decide if the Americans would stay independent.

